

Message Text

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TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: MITTERRAND'S TRIP TO USSR

1. SOCIALIST PERSONALITY WHO IS CLOSE TO MITTERRAND, BOTH PERSONALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY, GAVE US FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF MITTERRAND'S IMPRESSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS FROM HIS RECENT VISIT TO USSR:

(A) HE WAS REVOLTED (EXCEDE) BY HIS ENTIRE EXPERIENCE. HE FOUND THE TRIP TOO TOURISTIC, HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS DISAPPOINTING, AND EVERYTHING HE SAW AND HEARD WHILE IN THE USSR CONFIRMED HIM IN HIS CONCLUSION THAT THE "SOVIET SOCIALISM IS DEFINITELY NOT THE KIND HE HAS IN MIND FOR FRANCE."

(B) HE CITED SPECIFICALLY LACK OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, WHICH FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM.

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(C) PERHAPS MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF THE DISCUSSIONS

IN THE KREMLIN WAS THE SOVIET LEADERS' RESISTANCE TO ANY KIND OF ENDORSEMENT OR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE UNITED LEFT COMING TO POWER. THE SOVIETS WENT SO FAR AS TO CITE SPECIFICALLY THEIR APPREHENSION ABOUT THE IMPACT SUCH DEVELOPMENT IN FRANCE WOULD HAVE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY SPOKE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CULTURAL AND HISTORIC TIES WITH WESTERN EUROPE WHICH WILL REASSERT THEMSELVES WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE SHOULD THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS FORM A GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE.

(D) IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING SOURCE RECALLED THAT PCF LEADERS HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME COMPLAINED IN THEIR MEETINGS WITH THE PS THAT MOSCOW WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF THE UNITED LEFT COMING TO POWER BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE EE COUNTRIES AND ESPENIALLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

(E) MITTERRAND DID NOT REVEAL MUCH ABOUT HIS TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH BREZHNEV. SOURCE HAD THE FEELING THAT NOTHING MUCH IMPORTANT WAS DISCUSSED AT THAT MEETING.

2. MITTERRAND SUMMED UP HIS NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE SOVIET VISIT BY SAYING THAT AS A RESULT HE WILL BE MORE ADAMANT THAN EVER IN RESISTING PCF PRESSURE TO REFER TO THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS "SOCIALIST" INSTEAD OF "EE COUNTRIES", AS MITTERRAND HAS DONE ALL ALONG.

3. IN VIEW OF MITTERRAND'S TOTAL COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC LIBERTIES IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HIS REJECTION OF THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE WOULD BE SO THOROUGH AND UNQUALIFIED. HOWEVER, THE APPARENT INTENSITY OF HIS FEELINGS MAY BE DUE TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SOVIET LEADERS REFUSED TO CONVEY ANY ENDORSEMENT OF THE UNITED LEFT IN FRANCE.
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